***Murder on the Orient Express***

**Final Assessment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Goal** | Your goal is to spur public debate about the effectiveness of the legal and jury system. |
| **Role** | You are a newspaper reporter for the MOTOE Times. |
| **Audience** | The American public. |
| **Situation** | As a reporter for the MOTOE Times, you have been dispatched by your editor to cover Ratchet’s murder. You have followed the investigation and are now compiling your findings in an article that is to be published in the Op-ed column of the newspaper. You choose which viewpoint you want to take:   1. The legal system in America failed in its prosecution of Cassetti, aka Ratchet, and, therefore, the suspects in his murder should not be prosecuted. 2. Despite the flaws, the legal system in America should be protected and all suspected in Ratchet’s murder should be put on trial.   Remember to use evidence from the book to support your opinion. |
| **Performance/Product/Process** | The final product will be a typed newspaper article in the style of an op-ed piece. |
| **Standards of Performance** | The attached rubric will be used to evaluate your performance. |

**Guidelines for Assignment Completion:**

1. The essential question you are answering is **what is the significance of the legal and jury system in the novel?**
2. Pick one side on which you will present your opinion. No fence sitting.
3. Use specific evidence from the novel to support/defend your opinion.
4. Summarize the events in the novel, the evidence and how each piece is connected to a specific character,
5. Identify the connections between the “suspects” and Ratchet.
6. **Remember: This is a persuasive piece, and your goal is to start a public debate about the effectiveness of the American legal system. Use emotional appeals to pull your audience in to defending your position. You want a debate.**

***Murder on the Orient Express***

**Final Assessment Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Summary of Ratchett’s murder | Summary is detailed and concise. | 2 or fewer details are missing. | 3-5 details are missing. | Summary is incomplete. |
| Summary of Ratchett’s crime (kidnapping of Daisy Armstrong) | Summary is detailed and concise. | 2 or fewer details are missing. | 3-5 details are missing. | Summary is incomplete. |
| Summary of evidence & connection to each suspect | Each piece of evidence is clearly identified and connected to its owner. | One piece of evidence and/or one connection is unclear. | Three to 5 pieces of evidence and/or connections are unclear. | Evidence and connections are not mentioned. |
| Connections between suspects & Daisy Armstrong | Connections are clear | 2 or fewer connections are vague | 3-5 connections are vague | Connections are not described. |
| Author’s opinion | Author’s opinion is clearly and forcefully stated. | Author’s opinion is stated. | Author’s opinion is vague and unclear. | No evidence of the author’s opinion. |
| Support for author’s opinion | Clear and specific details from the story are used to support the author’s opinion. | Details from the story are used but are underdeveloped and not connected to the author’s opinion. | Details from the story are inappropriate or insignificant. | Details from the story are not present. |
| Use of emotional appeals. | Appropriate emotional appeals are used to pull the reader in. | Emotional appeals are used, but do not engage the reader. | Emotional appeals are weak and vague. | Emotional appeals are not present. |
| Organization, Flow of ideas, Transitions | Paper is well organized with a logical flow of ideas and clear transitions | There is a problem with one of these. | There is a problem with 2 of these. | There are major flaws in all areas. |
| MLA Formatting requirements: typed, double spaced, title, header, 12 font, block fonts | Paper meets all MLA formatting requirements | There is a problem with one of these. | There is a problem with 2 of these. | There is a problem with 3 or more of these. |
| Grammar, usage and mechanic. | Paper is free of errors | Paper has 2 or fewer errors. | Paper has 3- errors. | Paper has more than 5 errors. |